

LEGISLATION EXPLANATION SHEET

1st DRAFT DATE: December 1, 2010

DEPARTMENT: Department of Accounting and General Services
Wireless Enhanced 911 Board

SUGGESTED BILL: Emergency Appropriation for the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund (the Fund).

PROPOSAL SUMMARY: Request to increase appropriation ceiling from \$9.0 million to \$14.0 million for the Wireless Enhanced 911 Fund (the Fund). The Fund operates outside of the state treasury.

JUSTIFICATION: Since July 2, 2004, wireless subscribers have been assessed \$.66/month surcharge as required by Act 159, SLH 2004. The act also created the Fund in which these collected fees are deposited. The Fund reimburses public safety answers points (PSAPs) and wireless carriers for the purposes of ensuring adequate funding for the deployment and sustainment of wireless enhanced 911 services and for expenses of administering the Fund and the board.

During the summer of 2009 the Board developed a 5 year strategic plan with input from all of the PSAPs in Hawaii. This plan identified the most critical needs to assure up-to-date technology and operational necessities required to support the ongoing expenses of receiving, delivering and dispatching wireless emergency 9-1-1 calls from the public. Many of the components and systems required to support wireless 9-1-1 services currently operating within the PSAPs are antiquated and obsolete and need immediate replacement or ongoing maintenance. 9-1-1 is the initial point of contact by the public when they have an emergency that could result in the loss of life, limb or property. Ensuring that the PSAPs are adequately funded for the needs identified in the strategic plan are of the utmost importance to assure the citizens and visitors to Hawaii have access to 9-1-1 when needed.

Without this emergency appropriation, the reimbursements to the PSAPs for some of the costs to sustain wireless enhanced 911 services will not be funded.

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC:	Without the increase in the spending ceiling and emergency appropriation, the Board cannot reimburse the PSAPs for the replacement and ongoing maintenance of many components and systems required to support the receiving, delivery and dispatching of emergency wireless 9-1-1 calls, assuring the public has access to 9-1-1 when needed to prevent the loss of life, limb or property and delaying the benefits which the public has paid for through the assessment of the surcharge
ESTIMATED COST / SAVINGS:	The Fund is self sustaining and does not require general funds.
FUNDING SOURCES:	Enhanced 911 Fund
STAFFING IMPACTS:	None
ORGANIZATIONS OR GROUPS TO MOBILIZE FOR SUPPORT:	Cities, Counties, Public Safety Answering Points, Emergency Services Providers and select citizens
ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH MAY OPPOSE:	Unknown
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	None